

**AMENDMENT**

**U.S. Appln. No. 10/803,979**

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

**Please amend specification as follows:**

**Page 4, line 31 to Page 5, line 5, are amended as follows:**

Preferably the aqueous coating composition in accordance with a first aspect of this invention comprises a mixture of starch and plant protein in water having a solids content of 3% w/w to 30% w/w, a protein content of 4% w/w to 50% w/w of the total solids, a viscosity of about 1 to about 100 centapoisecentipoises, and a pH from about pH 7.5 to about pH 9, wherein the starch is gelatinised and both the starch and protein in the mixture are alkali oxidised at a pH from about pH 8 to about pH 13, for about 5 to about 30 minutes at a temperature of about 70°C to about 150°C.

**Page 6, lines 16-18, are amended as follows:**

(b) heating the mixture concomitantly with oxidation or subsequent to oxidation to provide a composition with a viscosity from 1 to 100 centapoisecentipoises, and a pH from pH 7.5 to pH 9.

**Page 16, lines 24-27, are amended as follows:**

The process provides a flowable aqueous coating composition for coating paper, paperboard or cardboard, which comprises an oxidised mixture comprising starch and protein, wherein said mixture is gelatinised and the composition has a pH from pH 7.5 to pH 9 and a viscosity from 1 to 100 centapoisecentipoises.

**Page 11, lines 27-31, are amended as follows:**

In accordance with another aspect this invention relates to paper, coated with a coating composition as herein described. The paper is coated with an aqueous coating composition which

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comprises an alkali oxidised aqueous gelatinised starch/protein mixture, having a viscosity between about 1 and about 100 ~~centapoise~~centipoises (cps) and a pH from about pH 7.5 to about pH 9.